Dear Ms Birmpili,

In line with Decision XXVII/8, Australia wishes to advise the Secretariat that it does not permit the import of products and equipment containing or relying on HCFCs, except in a limited number of cases where equipment is exempted.

In Australia, the import of HCFCs is controlled by the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 (the Act) and its associated regulations. Under the Act, the import of equipment containing HCFC or designed to operate on HCFCs is prohibited, except where an exemption applies.

The exemptions and their expiry dates are as follows:

- Components for existing high static ducted split system air conditioners (Exemption expires on 30 June 2016)

- Replacement parts for existing HCFC air conditioning equipment (Exemption expires on 31 December 2019)

- Equipment insulated with foam manufactured with HCFC (Exemption expires on 31 December 2019)

- Equipment for which the Minister considers it would be impracticable:
  
  i. for the importer or licence holder to comply with the ban
  
  ii. to remove or retrofit the equipment because it is incidental to the main import. This exemption is formally granted by the Minister for the Environment. (Exemption expires 31 December 2019).

For further information on the ban on import and manufacture of HCFC products and equipment in Australia, please visit the following Australian Government webpage - http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone/licences/hcfc-ban
I would be grateful if you could provide this information on your website for the information of other countries.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick McInerney
Director
International Ozone and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Section

20 January 2016